



Bradwell gives award to 4th BCT, see Page 2C



CG reads to Taylor's Creek students, see Page 1B

Town Hall meeting responses, see Page 4A

3rd BCT stirs up dust at NTC, see Page 11A



Pvt. Blanton Rosenau

The Battle Kings from 1/9 FA open fire with a 155mm howitzer in support of 3/7 Cav. Tuesday during 2nd BCT's Spartan Focus training exercise at Fort Stewart.

## RAINING FIRE 2nd BCT trains for contingencies during Spartan Focus at Stewart

Pvt. Blanton Rosenau  
2nd BCT PAO

Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Division's 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery honed their skills Tuesday as part of 2nd Brigade Combat Team's Spartan Focus at Fort Stewart.

The objective was to run the Soldiers through their duties under pressure to prepare them to complete their missions once they are deployed to Iraq this summer, said Staff Sgt. Robert Valley, platoon sergeant of 1st Platoon, A Battery while noting the training was going well.

"I am very proud of my Soldiers," Valley said. "I feel I have a special bunch here who rose to every occasion to get each mission accomplished. They adapt quickly to do what is needed, and then some."

One of the Soldiers Valley praised was Pfc. Tamous Willis, who just completed Basic Combat Training in June and is here on his first assignment.

"Pfc. Willis is a perfect example of how well my Soldiers adapt," Valley said. "He is fresh out of BCT and has successfully performed in a non-commissioned officer's position on many occasions."

One of Spartan Focus' missions is to train Soldiers to fill multiple positions, to prepare them for as many pos-

sible contingencies as possible.

"It's not that big of a deal," Willis said of Valley's praise. "I want to learn as much as possible, to be ready. I appreciate every opportunity to do so. In my spare time I like to study field manuals or volunteer for whatever is needed."

Besides preparing the Soldiers for the unexpected, the training uses repetitive drills.

"Shoot, communicate, move," Valley said. "That's what field artillery is about."

Some of the weapon systems the Soldiers were

See PALADIN ————— Page 3A

## HEAT prepares Raiders for vehicle rollovers



Spc. Ricardo Branch

Soldiers from HHC, 1st BCT, 3rd Inf. Div. exit an overturned mock humvee, which simulates the conditions for a vehicle rollover.

Spc. Ricardo Branch  
1st BCT PAO

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — With the threat of vehicle rollovers from uparmored humvees, 1st Brigade Combat Team Soldiers entering Iraq must now complete Humvee Egress Assistance Training at Camp Buehring prior to entering Iraq.

Headquarters Company, 1st BCT was one of the many units from the Raider Brigade conducting the humvee training Jan. 20 at Camp Buehring.

"This is very important training," said Spc. Marc Taylor, HHC, 1st BCT. "For the Soldiers who go off the forward operating bases regularly in convoys, this training is crucial because they need to know what to do in case a rollover happens."

During the training, the Soldiers received

See HEAT ————— Page 5A



An Avn. Bde. AH-64D Apache Longbow hovers at the multi-purpose range complex at Fort Stewart during Table VIII qualifications.

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills.

## Attack pilots work together on skills

Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills  
Avn. Bde. PAO

It's said to be one of the most lethal systems of destruction in the Army inventory, a tough, fast, powerfully armed predator of the battlefield known as the AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopter.

To some, the Longbow is the ultimate in helicopters and when faced with the

choice of what to fly after flight school, there is no other option.

"Guns is the best there is," said Chief Warrant Officer Mike Pruitt, pilot, Co. A, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment, referring to flying attack helicopters. "Attack aviation is where it's at. That's what we do as Soldiers, hunt and kill. That's what the Apache is designed to

See AVN ————— Page 5A

## PUBLIC NOTICE

A sewage line located near the wastewater treatment plant on Hunter Army Airfield was accidentally broken by a construction contractor Jan. 25.

This breakage caused this line to overflow into a stormwater collection system and then into the adjacent drainage ditch.

Installation personnel responded immediately, averting further spillage into the adjacent ditch, but approximately 500 gallons of wastewater were discharged to the Lamar Canal.

For more info, call the DPW environmental division at 767-2010.

# Marne 6 Sends Planning for possible early deployment

**Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch**  
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

You may have heard or read that our division headquarters may possibly deploy sooner than we had projected. It is true that we have been asked to begin planning and we could see much of the headquarters deploy early.

This isn't absolute or certain. It is among the many possibilities our leaders must consider in order to accomplish our mission in Iraq. You deserve to be informed.

We must take certain steps to prepare for our potential mission while we preserve the greatest quality of life possible for families.

To better prepare for success, we are carefully moving forward on the assumption that our division headquarters could receive an order to deploy early. If the order comes, we will be ready.

Our Marne men and women will deploy when it is absolutely necessary in order to answer our nation's call to duty. We will not deploy earlier than necessary to fulfill our obligations. We have made it perfectly clear that we must not deploy a single unit or Soldier

unless they are fully trained and equipped.

For now it is necessary that we retain every Soldier assigned to the division. We will receive new personnel but there will not be further departures without my approval. We will consider the recommendations for exceptions from our brigade and battalion leaders. We are at war and this is absolutely necessary.

The division headquarters will move forward with a dynamic and effective training plan. We are well practiced at many of the tasks we are required to perform in Iraq. But more work is necessary.

Our division headquarters will take with it the capabilities and equipment necessary for success in Iraq. This might require additional troops and equipment from other units on Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

As a husband and father, I recognize that this impacts family plans and lives. Believe



me, our nation; indeed our world owes a debt of gratitude to the monumental sacrifices of our Soldiers and their families. I am honored to serve alongside such great human beings at this time in our history.

The President's announcement of a bold plan for Iraq earlier in January called for accelerated deployments and extensions of troops already deployed. The purpose is to "plus up" forces there in order to protect the people of Iraq from enemies which threaten our national interests and our American way of life.

Certainly, we all prefer to be at home with our families for as long as possible but this is a time of war and our nation needs its Army to succeed.

We all watched proudly as the 1st Brigade Combat Team made ready for their deployment. Today the "Raiders" are moving forward with their mission and we look forward to the

day we are all reunited here.

Our 3rd BCT and 2nd BCT are already on a timeline to deploy in March and May respectively. This has not changed. The leadership of both brigades are fully engaged with the tasks and training required to prepare for victory.

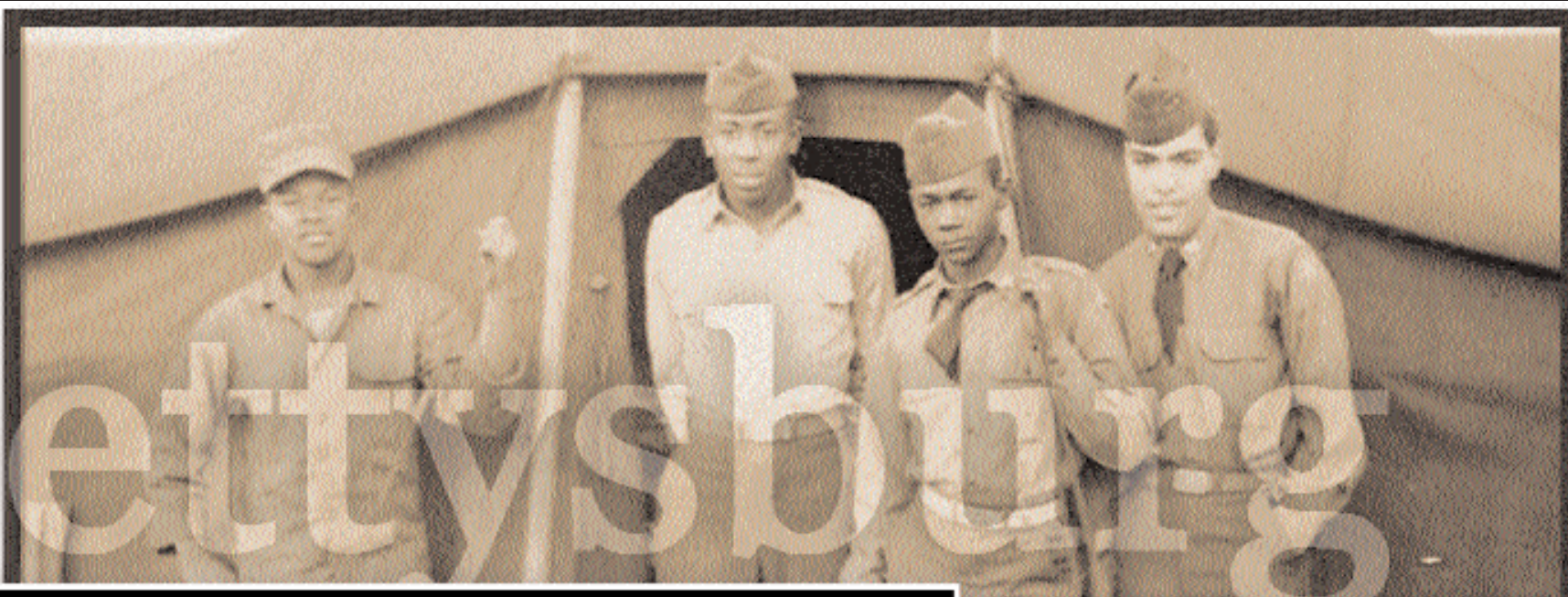
As more information becomes available, we will ensure that you are informed. For now we are taking the steps necessary. You can imagine that the task is great. But just as we have for nine decades, the Marne division will honor our call to duty.

To the men and women already deployed, thank you and God bless you and your families. You are bearing the burden of service in this Global War on Terrorism.

To those who are preparing to deploy, thank you for your service. Remember to spend time with the pillars of your life — family, friends, and spiritual leaders.

To our community at large, in the Hinesville, Savannah, and Columbus Georgia areas; we are so grateful to you for your expressions of love and support. We salute you for your continued inspiration.

**ROCK OF THE MARNE!**




U.S. Army Photographs are Compliments of the Fort Stewart Museum

## A Snapshot from Fort Stewart's Museum Archives

Graphic by: Spc. MarQues Hunt

**C Battery of the 715th Anti-aircraft Gun Battalion (90mm) originally of the Brooklyn, New York Armory trained at Camp Stewart, Georgia 27 September 1950 - 20 June 1951. Among the battalion's lineage and honors are Civil War - Gettysburg campaign streamers. In 2006 the 715 Veterans Association celebrated their 17th reunion and revisited Stewart.**



Civil War

## Marne/Hunter Tax Center

A free service

Eligible for Service: Soldiers, their family members and retirees.


A dedicated and trained staff is ready to prepare and file your tax return at **NO CHARGE**. Your tax return is filed electronically and you will receive your refund within seven to ten days.

**Hunter**  
Building 1211 (Hunter Legal Center)  
315-3675

**Marne**  
Located in building 9611 (National Guard Training Area). Proceed on Harmon Ave. next to Winn Army Community Hospital. Take 10th St. traveling away from the hospital. Take a left on Worchester Ave. and it is the first building on the left. 767-3964/6038

**Open Feb. 5 - Apr. 16**  
**8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Tax Time



**Documents to bring (If they apply to you)**

- W-2 for all wages received
- military ID (self & spouse)
- SSN for member, spouse & dependants
- Power of attorney
- Last year's tax return
- Proof of dependant care expenses
- Interest Income statement
- IRA/TSP Contributions
- Dividend Income

- Educator Expenses
- State Income Tax Refund
- Charitable Contributions
- Property Taxes paid
- Home Mortgage interest
- Student Loan Interest Statement
- Proof of educational expenses
- HUD (if purchased a home in 2006)
- Capital Gains & Losses

## Wild Wild West Night



**Saturday**  
**Club Stewart**  
**6:30 to 10:30 p.m.**  
Buffet available for an additional charge  
**Cost \$7 at the door**  
**Pre-sale tickets \$5**

18 years & older  
Any questions please call D'Lyn Hardy at 368-8762 or Paula Payne at 368-8890

**Silent & Live Auction**  
**Western card games**  
**Line Dancing**



**2 Grand Prizes**  
**\$200 gift card**  
donated by AAFES

Pre-Sale tickets \$5 at Club Stewart, Shop of the Marne and Goldmender (Hinesville)



Photos by Pvt. Blanton Rosenau

**Pfc. Tamous Williams performs his task drills inside his Paladin just moments before delivering live fire Tuesday during the Spartan Focus training exercise at Fort Stewart.**

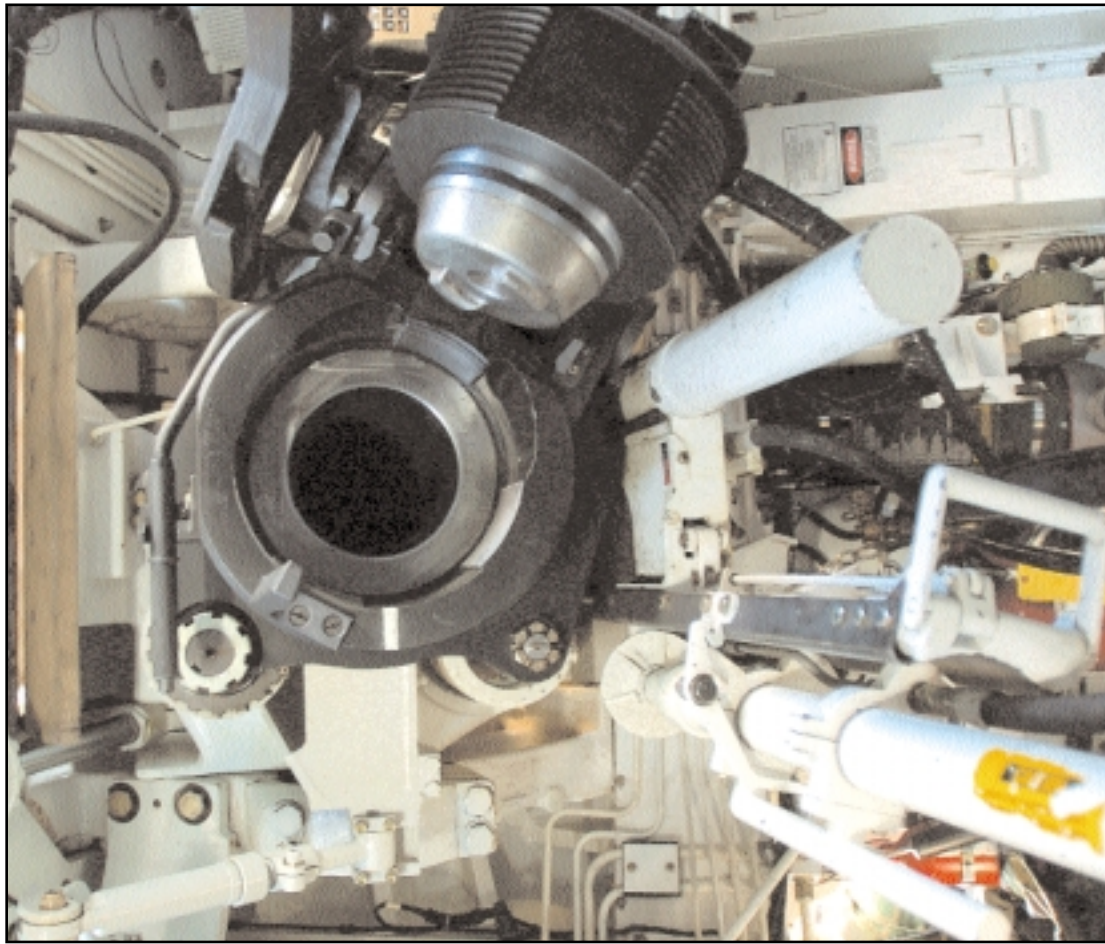
**PALADIN** **From Page 1A**

trained on included Bradley Fighting Vehicles, tanks and Paladins. Valley said they tried to certify Soldiers to operate all the equipment with equal efficiency. "It is of the utmost importance that our Soldiers are able to deliver accurate and timely fires," said 1st Lt. Jose Yrigollen, 1st Platoon leader.

Yrigollen said working fire coordinates and executing fire missions are the essence of field artillery. "I am very proud of our Soldiers and the results they achieved while supporting 3rd Battalion 7th Cavalry and 1st Battalion, 64th Armor," Yrigollen said. "To make Spartan Focus more effective, we also teach classes

during off time. Yrigollen said the classes included ways to set up and operate traffic control points, conduct raids, cordon and search, and invade and secure an area. "It also helps getting the Soldiers out of the routine and adapt," Yrigollen said. Valley and Yrigollen agree that by the end of Spartan Focus, the Soldiers will be about 95-percent ready to deploy and successfully complete any mission they may receive in Iraq.

"By the time we complete our Mission Readiness Exercise, our Soldiers will be 100-percent ready, efficient and effective," Valley said. Valley should know — he deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom I and III, as well as Desert Storm. "Once again, I want to say how proud I am of our Soldiers and how motivated they have been so far," said Yrigollen. "I am very excited to work with such great people. Our officers, noncommissioned officers and



**Above: 1st Lts. Tim Stevens and Jose Yrigollen, A Btry., 1/9 FA, discuss alternate firing positions for their respective platoons during Spartan Focus Tuesday. Left: The interior of the Paladin is prepped and ready.**

# 1st BCT arrives in Kuwait, prepares to move into Iraq

**Spc. Ricardo Branch**  
1st BCT PAO

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — Since arriving in country, Soldiers from the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division have been working non-stop in Kuwait to prepare themselves for their eventual trip into Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom V. But before the Soldiers can commence with their missions in Iraq, they must complete training in Kuwait. "Some of the things the troops have been doing to prepare themselves for Iraq include counter improvised explosive device training, weapon and vehicle test fire, close quarter combat, and mortar and artillery calibration," said Maj. Esli Pitts, brigade training officer. He said the training is important for Soldiers because the training is geared

for things they'll perform or be exposed to in Iraq. "It's huge," Pitts said. "They are settling in as combat crews and squads." "For some Soldiers who don't do this training normally, it's their first time to train as an attack team," he said. Pitts said going through IED training, vehicle rollover drills, and qualification tables in Kuwait as a tactical crew is something anyone can benefit from because even if it's not something new to them, it can serve as a good refresher. "This training we are doing here are tasks many of the Soldiers have been doing prior to deployment, but it still helps refine their skills," he said. Despite being on their third rotation, Soldiers from 1st BCT are being as safe as they can be, according to Ray Williams, brigade safety officer.

"The Soldiers getting here may not always have safety instilled into them, which means Soldiers and junior leaders need to do their job and ensure Soldiers follow standards while they are deployed," he said. Williams believes the reason for the low amount of injuries thus far are a direct result of the brigade training numerous Soldiers to serve as safety officers in their brigades. "We've been as safe as we can be," he said. "At the moment we've only had two incidents, which were a result of human failure when Soldiers failed to pay attention to their situational awareness and follow the standards." With the majority of the brigade now enroute or preparing to head up north to their respective forward operating bases, 1st BCT Soldiers are ready to go and get the job done.



Pvt. Krista Findley

**Soldiers from 2/7th Inf. wait to test the weapons systems of their Bradley Fighting Vehicles after arriving in Kuwait.**

# Town Hall questions answered; Next meeting Feb. 6

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield will hold a Town Hall meeting 5:30 p.m., Feb. 6 at Club Stewart. Community members are invited to participate live or via video tele-conferencing from the Hunter Club. Questions and answers from the Nov. 7 meeting are included below and on pages 9A and 11A. Each question begins with the agency it was directed to, the question (Q:)and the answer (A:).

## Fort Stewart Schools

Q: The schools on post are up to sixth-grade. The gifted children go to Snelson Golden Middle School, but the Stewart children don't go to the gifted program until seventh-grade. They are losing a total year of the program at Snelson Golden.  
A: This issue will be resolved with the future construction of a middle school on Ft Stewart. The middle school will be part of the Liberty County School System and will be attended by both military and civilian students. Sixth grade students who have previously attended the Department of Defense Education School Sysem schools on post will attend the newly constructed middle school.

## Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation

Q: A while back there was a cooking class . Can we get another one? There needs to be more classes for spouses, i.e., computer classes, cooking, power puff mechanics, etc.  
A: MWR would be glad to set up a variety of classes. Call James Ellison at 767-6212 for information on requesting a class. MWR conducted focus groups on Jan. 22 at Stewart and Jan. 24 at Hunter with a cross section of the community to determine what type of information on events, activities, and classes the community would like to have.

Q: Can childcare open at 5:30 a.m. in order for Soldiers to get to physical training?  
A: The Child and Youth Services system is comprised of many options for child care to meet the various needs of parents. Currently the Child Development Centers which open at 6 a.m. average only 17 children between 6 to 6:15 a.m.. This number does not warrant opening at 5:30 a.m. when PT does not start until 6:30 a.m.. However, for those parents needing extended hour care or care prior to 6 a.m., certified Family Child Care homes are available. For more information on FCC homes please call 767-2311.

Q: Spouses want to play intramural sports activities. Can we join the ones that are already formed?  
A: Spouses are not authorized to play in the Intramural pro- gram which is for unit- or company-level active duty Soldiers. However, MWR can set up a spouse's league separate from the Intramural program. Sign ups for a spouse's league are currently ongoing at the sports office, 767-8238.

## DMWR

Q: The county bus drivers are talking on their cell phones, speeding on Liberty Street.  
A: The Assistant Superintendent for Liberty County Schools stated that any Liberty County bus driver talking on a cell phone while driving should be ticketed by military law enforcement. Additionally, she asked that anyone observing a bus driver talking on a cell phone while driving to get the bus number and report the driver to the Board of Education Office, at 876-2161.

## AAFES

Q: Why don't we have late night movies starting at 9:30 p.m. with a consistent schedule?  
A: Beginning Nov. 17, we started showing a late night movie every Friday and Saturday night at 9 or 9:30 p.m. depending on the earlier shows ending time. We will continue to do this as long as we get participation.

## Public Affairs and DMWR

Q: There is a problem with communication on events on post. Several people did not know about last weekend's Craft Fair and Fall Fest.  
A: The Craft Fair and Fall Fest were publicized by PAO in the Frontline, on Marne TV, and on the main gate marquees. PAO is in the process of conducting a series of surveys to determine how our patrons can best receive communication from the installation. Garrison will use the results of the surveys to re-direct, if necessary, marketing and advertising efforts of on-post events. Surveys are conducted quarterly through email blasts and in person at installation facilities. PAO advertises on-post events in the Frontline, on Marne TV, the [www.stewart.army.mil](http://www.stewart.army.mil) website, and on the main gate marquees. MWR advertises events through its marquees, in the MWR Calendar, the Coastal Courier, the MWR website, and on banners, signs, and fliers throughout the installation.



Spc. Marques Hunt

**Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield holds its next Town Hall meeting 5:30 p.m. Feb. 6 at Club Stewart, and offers Hunter participation through tele-conference at the Hunter Club.**

## Directorate of Emergency Services

Q: There are dogs tied outside in Marne Woods. Dogs are on short ropes as short as two feet.  
A: In accordance with FS REG 210-5 chapter page 16, dogs will not be left unaccompanied, except in a fenced enclosure or on a leash in the owner's presence. Tying of pets to trees, shrubs, fences, stakes or any portion of quarters is prohibited. A violation of this nature should be reported immediately to 767-2822. An animal control officer or Stewart police patrol will respond.

Q: There is a new issue in Marne Woods; there is a problem with parking on the grass, especially in the evenings?  
A: The Stewart police patrol responsible for that area will be instructed to identify and enforce this parking infraction. The patrol will attempt to identify and locate the owner to have the vehicle properly parked. If the patrol is unable to locate the owner, a citation will be issued.

Q: Can a four-way stop at Harmon Ave., next to Youth Challenge, be put in?  
A: Harmon Ave. is the major roadway that allows access and egress for Highway 144E and Georgia 47 for Stewart. Due to the heavy volume of traffic at certain periods of the day, a 4-way stop at 16th Street and Harmon would impede the flow of traffic and create congestion in both directions. This would have a major effect on the flow of inbound/outbound vehicles. To avoid heavy inbound or outbound Gate 3 traffic an individual could use 16th St. to Niles Ave. to 9th St. and gain access to Harmon Ave. Motor vehicle operators need to be cautious of runners on 9th St. who are moving from PT area two to PT area three.

Q: There is a road that is closed for PT on Ricker. The road sign that states that the road is closed for PT is too small.  
A: The signs in question are located at both ends of Ricker which supports PT Area two and also located at both ends of Bultman Ave. which supports PT Area two. These signs have been in place for approximately the last three years in support of road guards and road barrier material during the designated Division PT times and days.

Q: There is illegal parking on Bundy Street. Vehicles are halfway in the grass and the street. This illegal parking makes the street a one way street. I have called it in to the military police and they respond. Why do we have to continue to call?  
A: This problem was brought to the attention of the Stewart police. They have since had a patrol monitor and redirect this traffic to Newman Gym field or the Quick Track, allowing them to park and walk across to the Quick Track physical training area. Violators will be ticketed by DES law enforcement.

## Directorate of Public Works

Q: Why do I have to come in with a broken light bulb before I can get a replacement bulb?  
A: There are 18 different light bulbs in our inventory. Conducting a one -for-one exchange ensures that the resident receives the correct light bulb the first time, thus preventing having to return to Self-Help.

Q: There are gutters falling down on Liberty Street. They are hanging off the homes. I have called in every Friday for three months. Also, the grass is not being cut.  
A: The gutters in question have been addressed. Additionally, we will begin a gutter maintenance program in the spring. Our Roads and Grounds supervisor will continue to monitor the landscaping contractor to ensure all areas are maintained to standard.

Q: There is profanity written on the playground equipment. Kids can read the profanity.  
A: Playgrounds are continually cleaned and inspected for damage and graffiti. As graffiti is found, it is removed. Unfortunately, this is a recurring problem. We will continue to address it as it is discovered or reported.

Q: There are problems with bus stops and profanity. The sub-contractor workers are using the bus stops.  
A: Bus stops with graffiti and profanity have been identified and cleaned where possible. The plexiglas panels having graffiti etched into them will be replaced. Sub-contractors have been briefed not to utilize bus stops for break areas. This will be monitored by Government Military Housing, Regional Contraction Inspection and Quality Assurance to ensure compliance.

Q: I live at 5208 Marne Court and the light in the back yard does not work.  
A: The light has been repaired. DPW receives a list of non-working lights through their Quality Assurance Office on a weekly basis. If a resident notices a light in need of repair, please report it to GMH at 408-2466.

## DMWR

Q: I am the Popcorn Chairperson for the Boy Scouts in the Liberty District. Military kids whose troop meet on-post can and use to sell at the Commissary and PX. If a troop is considered an off-post troop, we were told they cannot sell on-post. The boys are military children.  
A: As much as MWR would like to support the request from the off-post boy scout troop, Department of the army policy stipulates that only registered on-post private organizations can perform fund-raising on-post. There are many off-post private organizations that have military as members. If an exception is made in this case, it would have to be offered to all the off-post private organizations who have military as members. This would be in direct violation of the DA policy.

## U.S. Army Medical Department Activity

Q: Is it possible to extend the hours at Winn to weekends? It is impossible to get an appointment with my PCM.  
A: Many of our providers have deployed with the Division and other units for the Global War on Terrorism. Currently we are unable to have extended clinic hours until we can hire more Family Practice providers, or get U.S. Army Reserve backfill for the deployed physicians, nurses, and physician's assistants. We are actively recruiting civilian providers, to include placing ads in national magazines and participating in job fairs like the Savannah Morning News is sponsoring.







Q: There has been a light out on my street, Salada Street, for three months.  
A: Canoochee went out to fix the problem. There was no power to the light. The underground wiring needed replacing and has been corrected.

## AAFES

Q: Can they stay open 24-hours, or maybe later at Hunter?  
A: We do not have the customer sales to support later hours at Burger King or Popeye's. Typically at closing time both facilities have no customers at all. The average sales for the last hour for both food facilities do not support increased hours. Also, we are unable to open the Corner Express Shoppette 24-hours as the customer sales do not support longer hours. The Shoppette currently closes at 10 p.m. and opens at 6 a.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. on weekends. As we continue deployment, sales slow down. However, we do not expect the need to decrease the hours of operation at the shoppette.

SEE QA
Page 9A

## Marne Voices Who do you think is going to win the Super Bowl? Speak Out

<p>"It doesn't matter because I'm from the Midwest. The game has already been won."</p> <p><b>Spc. Jasmine Butler</b> 4/3 BSTB</p>		<p>"The Colts. I've been a fan since they were the Baltimore Colts."</p> <p><b>Sgt. Thomas Wilt</b> HHC, 703rd BSB</p>		<p>"The Colts will win. Dungy ... taught the Bears' coach, and the teacher will not lose to the student."</p> <p><b>Capt. Jerome Maxie</b> A Co., Med. Hold</p>	
	<p>"It doesn't matter because it will be a history-making game anyway."</p> <p><b>Frank Patterson</b> Retired Army</p>		<p>"The Chicago Bears, because that's how we roll. The Colts will sell the tickets, but the Bears will win the game."</p> <p><b>Spc. Dontae Walker</b> E Co., 703rd BSB</p>		<p>"The Colts, because they're fast, hard-hitting and aggressive. The Colts have the best kicker and offense in the league."</p> <p><b>Spc. Bryan Hawley</b> 549th MP Bn.</p>

<p><b>Voice your opinion!</b> Write a letter to the editor!</p> <p>Send to: Public Affairs Office Attn: The Frontline, Editor 894 William H. Wilson Ave. Building 600C Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314-4941 or fax it to 912-767-9366.</p>	<p><b>The Frontline</b></p> <p>894 William H. Wilson Ave. Bldg. 600C, Ft. Stewart Hinesville, Ga. 31314</p> <p>© 2006</p> <p>ADVERTISING: (912) 368-0526 <b>THE Frontline</b> OFFICE: 767-5669</p> <p>This civilian enterprise newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the <b>Frontline</b> are not necessarily the official views of, or are endorsed by, the U.S. government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or U.S. Forces Command. It is published weekly by the Public Affairs</p>	<p>GARRISON COMMANDER COL. TODD A. BUCHS</p> <p>3rd Inf. Div. PAO — Lt. Col. Randy Martin 3rd Inf. Div. NCOIC — Master Sgt. David Abrams 3rd Inf. Div. Ops — Staff Sgt. Craig Zentkovich 1st Bde. NCOIC — Staff Sgt. Raymond Piper 1st Bde. — Spc. Ricardo Branch 2nd Bde. NCOIC — Sgt. Lina Satele 2nd Bde. — Private Blanton Rosenau 4th Bde. — Spc. Dan Balda Avn. Bde. NCOIC — Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Mills 3rd Sust. Bde. NCOIC — Master Sgt. Rodney Williams 3rd Sust. Bde. — Sgt. Lorenda Morris</p> <p>Office, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314-5000. All editorial content of the Frontline newspaper is prepared, edited, provided and approved by the Public Affairs Office of Fort Stewart, Georgia and the 3rd Infantry Division and is printed by Morris Newspaper Corporation of Hinesville, Inc., a private firm in no way connected with the</p>	<p>Garrison PAO — Richard Olson Command Information officer — Jim Jeffcoat</p> <p>Editorial/Design Staff Managing Editor — Pat Young Staff Assistant — Jennifer Scales Staff Writer — Sgt. Ben Brody Staff Writer — Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft Graphic Design Specialist —Spc. Marques Hunt Production Manager — Sherron Walker Advertising Mgr. — Jessa Kajencki</p> <p>Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs Hunter Army Airfield PAO — Steven Hart Assistant PAO — Nancy Gould</p> <p>Department of the Army, under exclusive written contract with Fort Stewart, Georgia. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. Subscription rates ar \$9 - 3 months, \$16 - six months and \$30 for 12 months. Rates are Third Class mail inside the continental U.S.</p>
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## AVN

do.”

Pruitt, the pilot-in-command, and Chief Warrant Officer Chad Kohrs, co-pilot gunner, Co. A, 3/3 Avn., spent the last week qualifying on a live fire aerial gunnery exercise known as Table VIII at Fort Stewart's Multi-purpose Range Complex.

Table VIII is to aviators what qualifying at the rifle range is to foot soldiers.

“It's pretty much like the final check as far as crew coordination, deploying the weapons systems, accuracy of the weapons systems, and effectiveness of the crew before deploying,” said Pruitt.

The pilots start out in classrooms, said Pruitt, learning weapons, tactics and safety. They then move into simulators before graduating to actual live fire exercises like Table VIII. Pruitt said Table VIII is the basic range as far as live fire goes that leads to more complicated ranges in which the pilots work as part of teams and small units, firing together just as they would in a real world situation.

“It's pretty much as realistic as you can get here (in the

continental United States) at a range,” Pruitt said.

Unlike the real world, though, said Kohrs, Table VIII is created to evaluate the crew's abilities in a controlled situation, so the pilots know what is going to happen.

“The tables are set, the engagements are pretty much set for us,” Kohrs said. “So I know what's coming to me and what's expected to happen.” Training for Table VIII forces the pilots through repetitive actions with the weapons systems so that when it comes to a real battle their reactions are automatic.

This is Kohrs-first duty station out of flight school and he has yet to deploy. Pruitt, on the other hand, has deployed to both Afghanistan and Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division and the 3rd Infantry Division, respectively. Pruitt said his experiences in battle factor in a lot when training with Kohr.

“Up to this it's been all dry fire (firing without live rounds) and simulation so (Table VIII) is pretty much (Kohrs') first time qualifying with live ammunition as part of a crew,” he said. “Because of the constraints of the range, I'm training him how to initially use basic gunnery skills to effectively engage targets.”

Even without someone shooting back, Kohrs said, those basic skills are complicated, and difficult to

master. “The challenge would be target acquisition and deploying the weapons system properly,” he said. Part of that training is learning how to work together, he added.

“In aviation, we talk about crew coordination,” agreed Pruitt. “It's a big key. It's how the two crewmembers communicate and coordinate with each other — especially in a tandem seat aircraft where we can't see each other.”

Kohrs said that a certain knowledge of what your crewmember is likely to do next, or what he will need from you, is important, almost like being able to read his mind. With that said, there are standard procedures, he said, standard ways of communicating and steps that are always taken in sequence, that help the pilots work together even if they haven't flown much with each other.

Once the crew has qualified on Table VIII, Pruitt said, he and Kohrs will go on to more complicated ranges. There Pruitt said he will be able to mix things up a bit, making it more difficult and therefore more realistic for Kohrs.

For his part, Kohrs said he knows the training will not end with Table VIII or any of the other ranges he qualifies at in the future. When he finally deploys with Co. A, 3/3 Avn., he said, he knows the training will continue.

“It's a really good feeling knowing that I'm going somewhere where (my fellow pilots) have that experience backing me up.”



## HEAT

a small class informing them of what to do in case of a vehicle rollover. Following the classroom instruction, the Soldiers applied what they learned in a mock humvee, which rolled them over three times. It rolled over once for familiarity, once for daytime driving, and once for night time driving.

“I learned how to protect myself and others around me, plus how to correct the steering in case the situation ever happened to me,” Taylor said.

The Soldiers that deployed never experienced training, which focused on preparing for the possible event of a vehicle rollover accident.

“It's a little difficult getting the doors open when you are upside down,” Spc. Jessica Weaver, HHC, 1st BCT. “it's good to train for this for the real situation. I'm a little worried about the steps but if it happens in a real situation. I'll be prepared and know how to react.”

Despite the training, the Soldiers in the

class valued the chance to learn something new, which could help save their lives and the Soldiers around them.

“In case the situation ever arose where we are in a humvee rollover, we'll know what we are doing,” Taylor said. “This will help us lose less Soldiers due to negligence in the long run.”

From Page 1A

From Page 1A

# Ask the Judge

## What is the telephone tax refund, and who gets it?

**Legal Assistance Office**  
Special to The Frontline

***What is this telephone tax refund? Perhaps the more important question is, should I receive it and how much is it?***

The telephone tax refund is a one-time payment available on your 2006 federal income tax return, designed to refund previously collected federal excise taxes on long-distance or bundled services. It is available to you if you had a landline, wireless cell phone, or Voice Over Internet Protocol service that had a long-distance plan.

A bundled service simply means a service which has local and long-distance service provided under a single plan. You are eligible for this refund if you had long-distance service from Feb. 28, 2003 to Aug. 1, 2006.

Now the IRS is making it easier for individual taxpayers by offering a standard refund amount between \$30 and \$60, so that taxpayers do not need to gather old phone bills. Taxpayers can take a standard amount from \$30 to \$60 based on the number of exemptions claimed on their tax return.

For those claiming:

- One exemption, the standard refund amount is \$30

- Two exemptions, the standard refund amount is \$40

- Three exemptions, the standard refund amount is \$50

- Four exemptions or more, the standard refund amount is \$60

Now that you know you are eligible for the refund, you need to know how to get it.

For many taxpayers who want to take the standard amount, there are no additional forms to file. You only need to fill out one additional line on your regular income-tax

return.

However, if you don't need to file a return you can use a new, simple form (Form 1040EZ-T) to choose the standard amount.

Individuals who decide not to use the standard amount must figure their refund using the actual amount of tax they paid.

To choose this option, taxpayers can fill out Form 8913 and attach it to their regular income-tax returns. It has been estimated that the U.S. Department of the Treasury will refund taxpayers in the amount of \$10 billion. So do not miss out — make sure you get your refund.

## Justice Served

### Military Justice

**Private first class** from Special Troops Battalion, received an Article 15; failure to report four times, disrespect to an NCO twice; reduction to E2, forfeiture of \$333 for one month, 14 days extra duty.

**Private** from 260th Quartermaster Battalion, received an Article 15; larceny; reduction to E1 (suspended), forfei-

ture of \$636 for two months (suspended), 45 days extra duty/restriction.

**Private first class** from 260th Qm., received an Article 15; larceny; reduction to E1, forfeiture of \$636 for two months (suspended), 45 days extra duty/restriction.

**Private first class** from STB, received an Article 15; failure to report twice; reduction to E2 (suspended), forfeiture of \$300 for two months (suspended), 45 days extra duty.



## Fort Stewart /Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

### ID card section upgrade

The identification card sections at Fort Stewart (Soldier Service Center and Mower Processing Center) plus the ID Card Section at Hunter Army Airfield will close March 26-27 for a system upgrade. For more information, call 767-4909.

### Looking for Tax Center volunteers

The Tax Centers are looking for volunteers to staff the Tax Centers at Fort Stewart/HAAF. This opportunity can provide good training and experience for future jobs. For more information, call 767-1055.

### Stewart/Hunter Town Hall meetings

The monthly combined Ft. Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield Town Hall meeting will be held Tuesday. Hunter participants may attend the meeting at Club Stewart (at Ft. Stewart), or participate via live, video teleconferencing at the Hunter Club. The meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.

### Stewart Briefs

#### Sergeants Major Association

The 3rd Inf. Div. SMA will hold a meeting, 4-5 p.m. Feb. 22 at the Hinesville Veterans of Foreign Wars post. A low country boil will follow. Contact your major support command command sergeant major by Feb. 9. to RSVP. The uniform is duty or civilian casual.

#### Free Soldier swimming lessons

Sign up now for swimming lessons at Newman Pool on Mondays and Thursdays. Only four Soldiers allowed per class. For more information or to register, call 767-3034.

#### Vehicle registration office moves

The Vehicle Registration Office has moved to Room 2064A, Bldg. 253 on Pony Soldier Road.

### PWOC meets Wednesdays

Protestant Women of the Chapel now meet 9:30 a.m. to noon Wednesdays at Vale Chapel. Spring semester will begin with fellowship and celebration and all new Bible studies. For more information, call Tammy Owens at 448-2296.

### Traffic alert for Highways 119, 144

Motorists are encouraged to use caution while driving on Fort Stewart, specifically Georgia Highways 119 and 144.

Due to increased training through Feb. 12, motorists are urged to use extra caution and be aware of possible vehicle and Soldier road crossings.

### Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum

Experience the story of American air power through powerful personal stories of the men and women of the Eighth Air Force.

In appreciation of the armed services, one free adult ticket will be offered for every adult-purchased ticket for Soldiers and their families through June 30.

For more information on this promotion for the military, call (912) 748-8888.

### Education coffee offers information

The Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center will hold an Education Coffee 9:30 a.m. Feb. 6.

An Army Education Counselor will be on hand to discuss educational opportunities and career goals. Sit down with a professional who can aid in your education and career search and who can explain how to get "there" from "here".

No appointment is necessary for individual counseling Monday to Friday.

A counselor is available for group briefings, such as for family readiness, unit or battalion-level groups.

Family members, civilians and active duty are welcome. For more information, call 767-8331.

### Registering for college graduation

All Soldiers, family members, and civilians

who plan to graduate or who are close to graduating in May of this year, should contact their school for deadlines and procedures for applying to attend the Fort Stewart graduation May 17.

If you are a potential Central Texas College graduate you must contact the college by today. Graduates from any and all colleges, not just the local institutions, are encouraged to attend. Deadline dates will vary from school to school. With some schools, you have to apply in early February.

### Troops-to-teachers sought

Bill Kirkland, Program Manager for the Georgia Troops to Teachers Program and Spouse to Teachers Program, will be available to answer questions at Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Army Education Center at 11 a.m. Feb. 28. The program provides eligible Soldiers up to \$10,000 to become public school teachers.

Under the Spouse to Teachers Programs, eligible military spouses may be reimbursed for the cost of state certification tests up to a total of \$600. Kirkland will conduct a one hour briefing that will include an overview of programs, registration procedures, and Georgia teacher certification options.

### New barber shop available

The barber shop at Bldg. 419, next to the furniture store, is now open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information call 876-0934.

### Hunter Briefs

#### Participate in CAB Falcon Week

Falcon Week is coming in March. The Combat Aviation Brigade will hold a three-day Falcon Week, starting March 13.

The festivities will include a triathlon, softball, bowling and basketball tournaments, and a golf scramble during the first two days.

The event will culminate at 6 p.m. March 15 with the CAB's Spring Ball at the Marriott Savannah Riverfront Hotel. Contact the CAB personnel officer for more information at 315-3755.

### Civilians authorized to use DFACs

Department of Defense and Department of the Army civilians and contractor employees are now authorized to eat in Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield installation dining facilities while in a duty status.

Civilians are not permitted to bring family members or guests.

Lunch and dinner meals are \$3.65 each and breakfast is \$2. The dining facility operating hours are 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. for breakfast, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for lunch and 5-6:30 p.m. for dinner.

### Hunter Tax Center ready to serve

A dedicated and trained staff is ready to prepare and file your tax return at no charge.

Soldiers, family members and retirees are eligible for this service.

Your tax return will be filed electronically and you will receive your refund within approximately seven to 10 days.

The Tax Center opens Monday and remains open through April 16.

The Hunter Tax Center is located at Bldg. 1211 (Hunter Legal Center). Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call the Hunter Tax Center at 315-3675

### Motorcycle safety course schedule

A Motorcycle Safety Course will be offered at Hunter Army Airfield on Feb. 6, 7 and 8. For more information and registration requirements, please call 767-7893.

### Spouses' Club hosts luncheon

Wine, dine and dance at the Hunter Spouses' Club Luncheon on Feb. 13, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hunter Club.

Enjoy an Italian meal topped off with chocolate-covered cherries for dessert.

Local wine vendors will be present to provide tasting treats while dance instructors teach the art of Salsa dancing. Proceeds go to the Savannah Area Family Emergency Safe Shelter.

Please RSVP to: [unter\\_spouses\\_club@Yahoo.com](mailto:unter_spouses_club@Yahoo.com), or call (912) 925-1687.

# Marine Corps training center dedicated to Korean War hero

Kurt Wolfe  
Hunter Public Affairs

The new Marine Reserve Training Center at Hunter Army Airfield was dedicated Jan. 22 in honor of USMC Corporal Charles H. Monroe Jr.

The ceremony was attended by Monroe with his wife of 52 years Celia.

Also participating in the dedication were many local civic leaders as well as several Marine Corps veterans, some from Monroe's old and now deactivated "Dog Company."

Savannah Area Marine Reservists will now officially report to the Corporal Charles H. Monroe Jr. Marine Reserve Training Center.

Monroe was honored for both his heroism on the field of battle at the Chosin Reservoir Campaign in Korea, as well as his work representing the interests of veterans and others living with disabilities.

The new facility replaces a much older one located at Hunter Army Airfield and serves the Marine Corps Reserves who are attached there. Over the past three years, the facility has mobilized Marines in support of numerous rotations to Iraq.

Major Robert C. Hawkins, USMC, officiated at the ceremony. He cited Monroe's extensive accomplishments both in and out of the Marine Corps.

In 1950, at age 16, Monroe joined the Marine Corps and was assigned to Company H, 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines. The 3rd Battalion was soon mobilized to support the United Nations police action on the Korean peninsula.

In November 1950, Co. H became embroiled in the historic and violent Chosin Reservoir Campaign. The battle



Courtesy USMC Chosin Reservoir Campaign web site.

*Marines 3rd Battalion fighting the 17-day battle of the Chosin Reservoir Campaign known by military historians as the "Most savage battle in modern American military history." photo courtesy USMC Chosin Reservoir Campaign web site.*

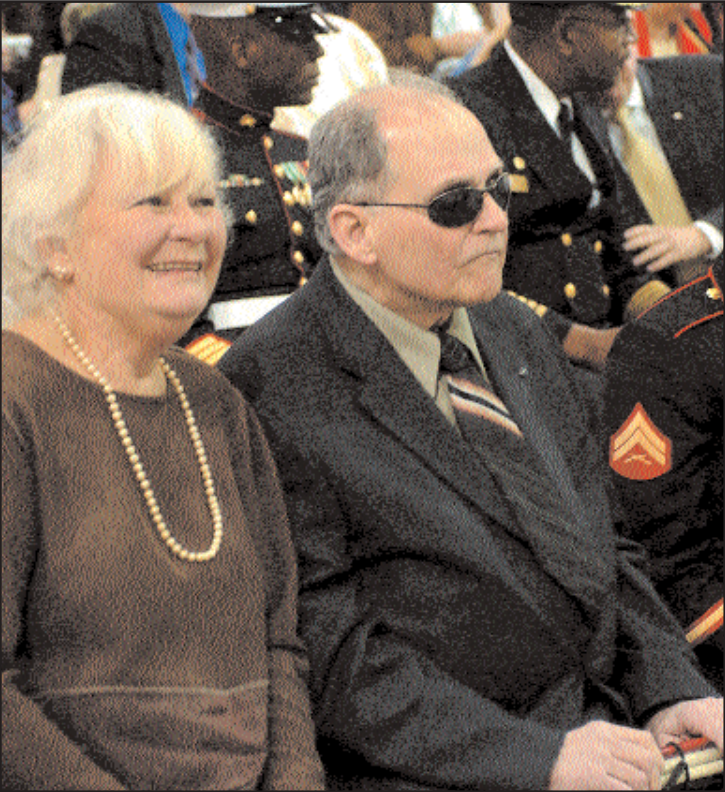
occurred in sub-zero winter weather conditions, along and in the hills surrounding a single one-lane narrow road. Military historians have since deemed it "the most savage battle in modern warfare history," and it was cited by President Reagan in his first inaugural address.

In that battle, 17,000 troops of the 1st Marine Division were attacked by 120,000 Chinese forces that had been given orders to leave "no man standing." The 17-day battle resulted in 15,000 allied casualties. The enemy, however, lost over 40,000.

During that battle, on the night of November, 28, 1950, Monroe's company engaged in fierce fighting near a small village near Haguru. A grenade detonated in his foxhole injuring both of his legs, both arms and the back of his head.

According to a Navy citation, "Monroe repeatedly refused evacuation and medical attention and fearlessly remained in the direct line of hostile fire. He continued to deliver accurate and effective fire until he lost consciousness." Monroe was critically wounded, permanently losing complete vision in both eyes. He was given a medical discharge from the Marine Corps, and shortly after, was given the Navy Cross (this nation's second highest medal) for his heroic actions. Despite the life altering injury, Monroe expresses only one regret.

"I regret that I ran out of ammo," Monroe said, with only the hint of a smile.



Kurt Wolfe

*Charles H. Monroe and his wife of 52 years, Celia, are present for the new Marine Corps Reserve Training Center dedication in Monroe's honor.*

At 19, Monroe dedicated is life to helping others with disabilities. He earned an Associates Degree, Bachelor's Degree, and ultimately a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Georgia. In 1976, Monroe became the National Field Director for the Blinded Veterans Association. There he served until 1986 when he moved back to Guyton, Ga. Upon his return, among other things, he restored the family home.

Monroe is reluctant to speak of his achievements, rather focusing on those of the soldiers who did not return. Major Robert C. Hawkins, USMC, who spoke at the ceremony, is quick to dismiss Monroe's reluctance.

"It's extremely rare for someone who's still alive to have a Marines building named for him," said Hawkins. "He's (Monroe) is a source of inspiration."

As the United States Marine Corps band from Parris Island played, "It's a Grand Old Flag," a plaque was unveiled bearing the name of Corporal Charles Monroe and citing his achievements.

"In the Marine Corps we cherish our heritage," said Hawkins after the ceremony. "Being able to have these veterans, these forbearers with us is something that we hold near and dear to our hearts. Charles Monroe teaches young Marines that it doesn't matter what your physical limitations are. You can overcome them with a good attitude and a mind that won't take no for an answer."

Monroe saw combat from his first day in Korea through his last. Every day since then he has seen personal challenges that he has faced and has surmounted. When asked by reporters to describe his harrowing 17 days in Korea, he shakes his head and laughs, knowing that in no way could words bring to life the nightmare of that time. Instead he answers in a typical and understated manner.

"I was only there for 17 days," he said. "I didn't like it very much, so I came home."



Courtesy USMC Chosin Reservoir Campaign web site.

*Third Battalion Marines taking a break from battle during the Chosin Reservoir Campaign, known by military historians as the "Most savage battle in modern American military history."*

## Ft. Stewart/Hunter

### Morale, Welfare and Recreation

**Super Bowl Parties**  
**4 February**  
**Rocky's @ 2 pm**  
**368-2212**

Watch the game on one of our 7 Big Screens  
or 11 Regular TVs. Full Service Bar, Free  
Munchies, WIFI Internet & MPOGs

**Club Stewart @ 4 pm**  
Liberty Lounge, Free Admission,  
Hot dogs & Popcorn

.....

**Family Super "Bowl-ing"**  
**4 February**  
Bring the family and enjoy the Super Bowl  
& bowling with the family at Stewart Lanes  
767-4273

.....

**Combined Town Hall Meeting**  
**6 February @ 5:30 pm**  
**Club Stewart**  
Watch live on Marine TV & call in questions  
at 767-ROCK or 315-ROCK

.....

**Youth Spring Soccer &  
Youth Track & Field**  
**SIGN UP NOW!**  
767-2312

**QA** ————— **From 4A** The shoppette closes at 10 p.m. and opens at 6 a.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m. on weekends. As we continue deployment, sales slow down. However, we do not expect the need to decrease the hours of operation at the shoppette.

## DES

*Q: The traffic during school hours and when families are coming home doesn't stop for the children and slide thru the stop signs. It is in the area behind Diamond Elementary in Marne Woods.*

A: It is the responsibility of the individual motor vehicle operator to ensure safe operation and to obey all rules, regulations and laws pertaining to operating a motor vehicle on the roadway. The Stewart police patrol the area and have been instructed to identify and execute proper enforcement violations.

*Q: The tank trail on Austin is being used by Soldiers in the mornings to avoid traffic.*

A: The tank trail that runs from Austin Rd to Murray Ave and from Murray Ave to Harmon Ave is posted at all entrances. Privately owned vehicles are prohibited on the trail. There are also barriers that block the entrances of the tank trail that runs between Austin Rd and Murray Ave. To assist in deterring this, another set of three barriers will be emplaced and the DES will continue to identify and cite violators.

*Q: There are no crossing guards on Murray Street. Vehicles are speeding.*

A: There is a school crossing guard located on Murray Street at the designated crossing point on all school days. Murray St. has a 15 mph speed limit, speed bumps, and flashing lights. The DES will randomly run radar to enforce the speed limit.

## DES & FS SCHOOLS

*Q: Is it possible to establish a crossing guard program with fifth and sixth grades?*

A: Fort Stewart mayors and Brittin Elementary School are in the process of establishing a Safety Patrol. The safety patrol will compliment the existing crossing guard program.

*Q: Parking and pickup time at Brittin Elementary is a big traffic problem. Vehicles park on both sides of the street.*

A: This parking and congestion problem is due to the heavy volume of parents who bring their children to school via motor vehicle. To assist in eliminating this problem, the Stewart police encourages the use of carpooling, bicycles, and walking children to school.

## MEDDAC

*Q: I have three school-age children. Last year they had to take allergy shots. I had to take the children out of school two days a week to get the shots. Can other hours be available to prevent the children from missing school?*

A: Effective Dec. 8, 2006, the Immunization Clinic hours of operation were adjusted to meet the needs of the after school patients for their shots. They have extended their hours to give shots from 3:30 to 4 p.m..

*Q: I have an issue with the Emergency Room waiting time. Why don't we have a same day care unit? Everyone is coming in to the ER for the common cold. My husband was sent to Urgent Care and it took him five and a half hours to be seen.*

A: We apologize for the wait times in the Emergency Department. With all the physicians that are deploying, Winn is having a shortage of clinic appointments. This in turn is causing many to seek care in the Emergency Department, which causes longer wait times for acute minor illnesses. Winn is offering any family the opportunity to seek TRICARE service off post to alleviate the

crowding. Please call for a follow-up with the Patient Representative at 435-6225, to arrange for primary care coverage off post.

*Q: We have been here for five years. Why it is so hard for me to see the Primary Care Provider assigned to my family?*

A: With the Global War on Terrorism, many of Winn's health care providers are deployed. These physician, nurse, medic, and PA shortages affect the number of available appointments. MEDDAC is actively trying to recruit civilian providers to increase the access to care for our patients. With each new provider we hire, waiting times will decrease and continuity will improve.

## DPW

*Q: When housing is renovated and the sub-contractor has put in damaged items, such as flooring, why are the sub-contractors not held responsible?*

A: All contractors are accountable for services rendered. The services are inspected by GMH and RCI quality assurance personnel. A quality control signature is required on the invoice prior to the contractor receiving payment.

*Q: Why are there no speed bumps in some of the housing areas at Hunter?*

A: A survey needs to be done to establish the feasibility of speed bumps. Speed bumps slow down emergency response services and may only be placed on specific streets.

*Q: How does the housing wait list work? I am confused. I have gone in several times.*

A: A Soldier comes into the office to complete their application.

They should bring all supporting documents needed, i.e., a current end-of-month Leave and Earnings Statement, a copy of their identification card, a copy of their orders to the installation, marriage license, and birth certificates of children, if applicable. They will then be placed on the appropriate wait list by rank and size home they qualify for by their eligibility date. We will then call Soldiers off of the list by eligibility date and offer the next available home.

If a Soldier accepts, we then make an appointment to sign their lease. Eligibility date is based on when the Soldier departed from their last duty station. Dependent restricted tours and new accessions to the military are exceptions to this policy.

Residents can contact the Community Leasing Center for more information, call 408-2460. Residents must keep in mind their application is not complete nor are they placed on the wait list until all required documentation is submitted.

*Q: The hours of operation at the Hunter Community Center are not the best for the community. Can the hours be changed?*

A: The New Calloway Community Center began new hours Jan. 2. The new hours are 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.. The new hours are a 60-day trial basis to assess usage. .

*Q: The older homes do not have gutters. Can we get gutters?*

A: Currently, there are no plans or budgeted dollars to install gutters on pre-existing homes.

*Q: I live in a four-bedroom housing unit. There are no blinds in the house. To put up blinds is a significant expense. The new homes have blinds.*

A: Currently there are no plans or budgeted dollars to install blinds in pre-existing homes.

## DMWR

*Q: The Pot of Gold Ceremony in December was scheduled for 2 p.m.. The children were in school and those who volunteered couldn't attend.*

A: The ceremony was changed to 11 a.m. to accommodate volunteers' schedules.

# Financial specialist embraces budget, computer issues

**Jennifer Scales**  
Public Affairs Specialist

Every office should have one.

The Fort Stewart Resource Management Office has Mary Antalan, financial systems specialist. Wearing the hat of information management officer and system administrator for RM, Antalan also embraces a wide range of other budget-related issues such as the Information Management Agency online system, Defense Travel System, providing access and permissions, and troubleshooting computer systems and programs.

"I deal with garrison employees basically on Fort Stewart on budget issues," said Antalan. "The only time I interact with division staff is when they are paying for a garrison Soldier or civilian to go on temporary duty. Then I have to connect with their budget person to get lines of accounting in the travel system for payment."

IMA Online is a program that shows the money breakdown from higher echelons all the way down to the customer. "Money is assigned in an account processing code, whereby the budget analysts here establish an APC for each directorate. Once in the directorate, they can track costs allocated to everything from furniture to employee payroll," said Antalan.

Nowadays when a person goes TDY, the DTS is the name of the game. Antalan is the focal point for DTS help. "I think the automation of travel is a good thing because it allows the traveler to access their account from any computer at any time. A person can now get paid within 72 hours instead of the former two weeks or more with the paper product," Antalan said.

Of course there are some measures that the traveler needs to take care of before the system can work for them. Antalan highlighted those needs. "They must have a Common Access Card as information is basically driven by the personal information number on the CAC. Second, they need to know their bank routing and account numbers in which the deposit should be placed."

When a DTS profile is established, the traveler will need to indicate whether the money goes into a savings or checking account.

Another measure would be to make sure the traveler has a government credit card.

"If a person travels more than two times a year, they are mandated to use their government travel card," Antalan said.

If a card is needed immediately, an application can be processed and the card could be expedited with a \$25 fee, which the traveler can claim. Regular processing would take no more than 10 days for receipt of a card.

New persons who have never been TDY or who are arriving here from another installation or federal office need to

see the organization defense travel administrator to establish a DTS profile or to have their old one captured into the Stewart system. All of their information is captured based upon their SSN and can be updated.

"Persons have waited for as long as 45 days before they got their TDY reimbursements," Antalan said. "That's because incorrect data was input in a profile, such as EFT information or incorrect addresses. So one can see how important it is to make sure their profiles are up to date and correct."

When DTS began about two years ago, it was a train-the-trainer type situation and slots were not available for everyone to attend.

"A lot of times a person is ready to go traveling and they don't know where to start. So I point them in the right direction by showing how to maneuver in the DTS and once comfortable, it becomes pretty simple for them," Antalan said.

Antalan gives accolades to her customers and notes that they are all pretty knowledgeable and know when to come to her for help.

"Many of the problems encountered are generated at higher levels where I have to contact them for correction on their end, not ours," she said.

Even where there is a concern, question, or problem, Antalan maintains an open phone and door policy to help out anyone who may need her assistance.

Antalan holds a degree in business finance from Jackson State University in Mississippi. She was an administration specialist during her time in the U. S. Army with assignments at forts McClellan, Jackson and Polk.

Even though she has only been at Fort Stewart for three years, Antalan is no stranger to the federal work force. She worked at the Savannah Corps of Engineers for more than nine years as a systems accountant. While there she was able to get in on the ground floor as the corps was converting to the Corps of Engineers Financial Management System.

"With CEFMS, things were a bit more complex than here," Antalan said. "Offices were geographically dispersed and as the data manager for the complete system, I was responsible for resolving problems that arose. I could actually go out and write a script and fix the problem. Here I have to rely on higher echelons to write the scripts for the systems."

She also experienced being a transportation officer in the juxtaposition of the Fort Ord, Calif. movement as Soldiers and their families were being reassigned. There she briefed them on their entitlements related to household goods, storage and pick-ups.

At the Wetzell Child Development Center in Baumholder, Germany, Antalan oversaw operations and helped train directors and their assistants.

Antalan also relates to the military spouses that remain behind during deployments — her husband of 20 years, Pacifico Antalan, is currently in his second year tour as a civilian contractor in Kuwait, having retired from the U.S. Army in 2003. He also served two rotations in Iraq while on active duty.

Antalan spends her time off devoted to their daughters, Porsha, a freshman at Georgia Southern University, and Patrice, a freshman at Bradwell Institute. Her niece Tanecia Carter, whom she helped raise, is now back having just graduated from medical school in Atlanta.

She also credits her church family at the Live Oak Church of God in Hinesville for really being supportive to not only her, but to all the military families. "The congregation is 60-70 percent military and they are really big on Soldier support," Antalan said.

Being willing and open to change jobs would be an initial step for someone willing to work in this type of career, she added.

"I started in a temporary position just to get my foot in the door. Once I was in, I volunteered to help set up a system and became an integral part of the program, which allowed me to move up. Don't be too proud to take a lower grade or pay, but you don't have to settle for it either."



Jennifer Scales

**Mary Antalan, financial assistance specialist (left), goes over the latest Defense Travel System updates with Pam Rayman.**

**QA ————— FROM 9A****DES**

*Q: I have five children. My children have asked if they can ride bicycles to school. Is there bicycle safety training for the children?*

A: The Stewart Police, Stewart Mayors Program and Brittin Elementary School conducted a Bicycle Safety Rodeo Jan. 13, at Brittin Elementary. Ninety-eight riders received a Certificate of Participation. The next one is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m, May 19 at Brittin.

*Q: There are broken down vehicles on streets. How do we get the vehicles removed?*

A: This is a simple process. Call the MP desk sergeant. The MP will notify the owner to remove the vehicle. If not removed, then it will be removed by a contractor and taken to an impound lot. After it has been removed a certified letter is sent to the identified owner or lien holder at the last known address with the information of the vehicle being towed and location it has been towed to.

*Q: Curfew needs to be enforced. I have seen children out as late as 2 a.m. It has been called into the police.*

A: Things are being done to take action with curfew violators. The process starts with notify-

ing the police when someone observes a person that is believed to be violating the policy. The police will build the information packet and submit it to the Juvenile Disciplinary Board that is chaired by the garrison commander and garrison command sergeant major, and Hunter command sergeant major. The board is available to influence the juvenile towards appropriate behavior. If the behavior continues, the family may be considered for an installation bar by the garrison commander.

*Q: Can Gate 4, located on Austin, be opened during PT?*

A: Gate 4 has been open since November 2006 for two-way traffic 7:30 to 9 a.m. on PT days. The average number of vehicles varies. On average, there are 170 inbound and 27 outbound.

**Installation Chaplain**

*Q: I have been getting a lot of complaints that Chaplains are minimizing Soldier issues? Chaplains have stated that the issue is not significant.*

A: The Installation and Division Chaplains have since addressed this issue with our Unit Ministry Teams. They encouraged an extra measure of responsiveness and sensitivity during this time of heightened Soldier and family stress. Please contact the Family Life chaplain at

767-7028 anytime assistance is needed.

**AAFES & COMMISSARY**

*Q: The Commissary and PX are too small at Hunter. There is not a wood shop, craft shop, or auto craft shop. Can it be supplemented? The sign at the PX shows \$487,000 contributed to MWR.*

A: The HAAF Commissary was opened in 1995 and based on sales per customer there is no indication at this time that expansion is necessary. The Hunter PX is the correct size in relationship to the population of the community and sales of the facility. To better meet the needs of the community, the Hunter PX completed an image upgrade renovation, in September 2006. During the renovation the stock assortment was also reviewed. The PX stocks the best sellers in all categories of merchandise. One-time buys in home décor have also been added to the assortment to offer a better variety throughout the year. The Hunter PX can order items from the larger PX to meet the customer's needs. MWR would like to offer wood working and other craft classes, however, over the last five to 10 years, a lack of participation in the crafts forced MWR to discontinue these types of classes.

*Q: Why can't the hours of HAAF Commissary be expanded?*

A: The HAAF Commissary does not have sufficient customer sales to support additional hours. The commissary monitors sales yearly and expansion of hours depends on sales.

**DMWR**

*Q: At the old Sports USA we were able to watch NFL games on Sundays. I understand that it has changed. Will there ever be a place to watch the games?*

A: Sports USA is now Rocky's! Yes, it's a great place for Soldiers to relax, play Massive Public Online Games, bring a date, dance, and watch all the sports playoffs on big screen TVs.

**DPW**

*Q: Three parks have been torn down in the neighborhood. Are they going to be replaced?*

A: Playgrounds are removed and replaced based on safety, planned replacement, and density requirements. Not all playgrounds that are removed will be replaced. At the present time, the correct number of playgrounds is in place.

*Q: I have a problem with street lights in my housing area.*

A: The resident should call the GMH work order line at 408-2466 GMH provides a weekly list to DPW who then sends the list to Canoochee for the repairs to be done. GMH conducts quality assurance checks.